IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: HAHN=5

In re Application of:	)	Conf. No.: **3877**
Sei Kwang HAHN et al	)	Art Unit: 1623
I.A. Filing Date: 11/15/2004 371(c) Date: May 10, 2006	)	Examiner: Jonathan S. Lau
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/579,032	)	Washington, D.C.
For: CROSSLINKED POLYSACCHARIDE MICROPARTICLES AND METHOD...)		February 21, 2008

REPLY TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop: Amendment
Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action mailed January 24, 2008, entirely in the nature of an election of species requirement, to which applicants reply below.

First, however, applicants respectfully request the examiner to acknowledge receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119.

The PTO has required the election of a single sub-group from among the three (3) listed. As applicants must make an election even if the requirement is traversed, applicants hereby respectfully and provisionally elect what is identified as Species 2, the crosslinking reaction in which crosslinkages are formed by addition reaction between a mercapto group and an unsaturated bond such as the one

disclosed in claim 10, applicants' election being made with traverse and without prejudice. The claims which read on the elected subject matter are claims 1-8, 10 and 12-22.

Applicants understand that the requirement is made to focus the search, and that if a generic claim is found to be allowable, non-elected claims dependent thereon will be considered at that time. Applicants also understand that the position of the PTO, at least initially, is that unity of invention is destroyed by the Russell-Jones US Patent 6,221,397. However, applicants do not see that Russell-Jones anticipates all of applicants' generic claims, and therefore any allowable generic claim inherently defines a single general inventive concept under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 for all three species of crosslinking reactions.

According, applicants respectfully submit that the requirement should be withdrawn and all the claims examined on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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